XXXLV.

His Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

WITH THE

LORD KEEPERS,

On *Thursday October* 10. 1667.

By His Majesties Command.

In the *SAVOY*,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1667.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA·

His Majesties most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, with the Lord Keepers, on *Thursday, October* 10. 1667.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHen We last met here, about Eleven weeks ago, I thought fit to Prorogue the Parliament till this day, Resolving that there should be a Session now, and to give My self time to do some things I have since done, which I hope will not be unwelcome to you, but a Foundation for a greater Confidence between Us for the future: The other Reasons of that Prorogation, and some other matters with which I would acquaint you, I have Commanded My Lord Keeper to declare unto you.

My Lords, and you Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons,

THis Parliament (after many good and wholesom Laws made with your Advice in several Sessions, many great Supplies and Aids given to His Majesty, and for the Maintenance of the Wars, and many other signal testimonies of your Affecti-

on and Duty to Him, for which He again and again renews unto you His most hearty Thanks) was, as you very well know, Prorogued from *February* last, till this Tenth day of *October*; His Majesty having then reason to believe, that there would be no cause of your Reassembling in the mean time.

But in this Interval, the *Dutch* (who since the War begun, were strengthened by the Union of *France* and *Denmark*, having a great Fleet) actually Invaded the Land; and the *French* at the same time had a Royal Army in the Field, not far from the Sea-coast; the Conjunction of which with the others, in some Design against *England*, or some other of His Majesties Dominions, we had then cause to suspect.

In this streight, His Majesty (who in lesser difficulties had frequent recourse unto His Parliament, as His great and faithful Council, and therefore hath every year once, often twice, Reassembled you) thought it necessary to anticipate the time, and Issued out Proclamations for your meeting on the 25th day of *July* last past.

This (though unusual) was done by the Advice of His Privy Council; Publick necessity

Neceſſity and Exigencies allowing, or at leaſt diſpenſing with many things, which (except in ſuch caſes) were not to be allowed or diſpenſed withal.

Before that 25th day of *July*, there was a proſpect, and daily expectation, and (within three days following) an aſſurance of a Peace concluded with, and Ratified by our Three Potent Adverſaries.

The Storm which threatned us being thus blown over, and ſucceeded by ſo great a Serenity, it was raiſed as a Doubt by grave and wiſe men, Whether or no, the Neceſſities and Difficulties which cauſed ſo early a Summons being removed, you could Sit or Act as a Parliament before this 10th of *October*, being the fixt time to which you were formerly Prorogued.

For this cauſe, together with thoſe others mentioned by His Majeſty, He in His Princely Wiſdom held it neceſſary, in a matter of ſo great Conſequence, again to fix upon this Day for your meeting in Parliament, about which there can be no Diſpute; which being thus twice prefixt, and you meeting here upon a double Call, His Majeſty hopes it is a happy Omen, that this Seſſion of Par-

liament (which in Law is but this one Day, all Acts of this Session referring to it, unless otherwise specially Provided) will be happy and prosperous to His Majesty, to You, and to the whole Kingdom.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

His Majesty supposes, That no man would expect, that during your Recess, He should have refused Overtures of Peace; The Vicinity as well as Potency of His United Enemies, The great Expences of the War, carried on with much Disadvantage, by reason of the Plague and Dismal Fire in *London*, The Consideration of the posture of Affairs abroad, (besides many other Motives obvious unto you) induced Him to embrace the Opportunity of Concluding a Peace.

But you well know, That though the War be at an end, all the Effects thereof are not yet ended. It will require time, and your good Advice to remove those Obstructions, which hinder the Current of Trade both at Home and Abroad. And in this particular, His Majesty thinks fit to recommend it to your Wisdom, to Settle such a Balance of Trade between His Subjects of this Kingdom, and those of *Scotland*, as that we may not be prejudiced

diced by the Import of their Commodities hither; nor yet they so discouraged, as to leave off Trading here, and find out another Vent abroad more dangerous to us. This He finds too hard for Him without your assistance, though (upon your recommending it to Him) He has used some Endeavours therein.

His Majesty formerly promised, That you should have an Accompt of the Moneys given towards the War, which His Majesty hath Commanded His Officers to make ready: And since that way of Commission (wherein He had put the Examination of them) hath been ineffectual; He is willing you should follow your own method, Examine them inwhat way, and as strictly as you please; He doth assure you, He will leave every one concerned to stand or fall according to his own Innocence or Guilt.

His Majesty has reason to believe, That some Disaffected Persons (taking advantage of the Publique Necessities) have spread abroad Discourses and Rumours reflecting upon the Government, intending thereby to beget a Disaffection in His good Subjects: And it is an easie thing to take Exceptions, *Cum neque Culpam humana infirmitas, neque Calumniam regnandi*

regnandi difficultas evitet. But His Majesty promises Himself from your good affections, That every one of you in your several places, will endeavour to preserve a good Understanding between Him and His People: And if any just Grievances shall have happened, His Majesty will be as willing and ready to Redress them for the future, as you to have them represented unto Him.

And His Majesty doubts not but you will give Healing and Moderate Counsels, and imprint that known Truth into the hearts of His Subjects, *That there is no Distinct Interest between the King and His People; but the good of one, is the good of both.*

This is all I have in Command to say at this time.

In the *SAVOY*,

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